



The Writer's Access

November - December 2005

News from the Lane Literary Guild

www.laneliteraryguild.org

Rosen and Scribner to Read on November 15

On November 15, Lois Rosen and Keith Scribner will read from their work in the downtown library's Bascom-Tykeson Room. The reading starts at 7:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public.



Lois Rosen's book, *Pigeons*, now in its second printing from Traprock Books, evokes memories of growing up in New York. In language that is honest and intimate, poignant and at times painful, Rosen invites the reader to travel back with her to "my beautiful Bronx."

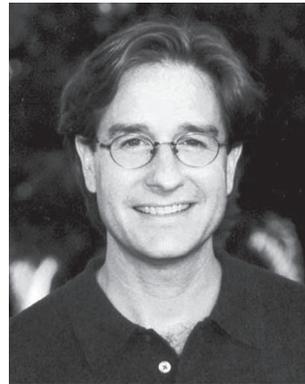
With an immediacy that transcends time, we are with

Rosen and her parents at Loew's Paradise theatre when she is molested by the man with the "big, dirty hand," but where she can't scream because her father "could have a heart attack." We are there "On a block of working-class Jews," admiring Audrey Hepburn, "the princess we girls on / Elliott Avenue dream of becoming." And we are with her as a young girl during the first snowfall, singing "Frosty the Snowman," as the poem moves from the microcosm of her own little bed, her mother yelling for her to be quiet, to the macrocosm where: "Quiet didn't exist / in Heaven."

A thread of loss weaves its way throughout the poems—the illness and death of parents, memories of the death of millions of Jews during WWII. Yet ultimately the poems are hopeful, even celebratory. As Christopher Howell says: "... to open *Pigeons* is to enter an old fashioned candy shop where the sweets bring on reverie so precise you can look, without your glasses, into that longing for the world as it was before you knew how it is."

Rosen's poems have appeared in *Willow Springs*, *Calyx*, *Hubbub*, and *Many Mountains Moving*. She won the Oregon Teachers as Writers Contest and the Oregon State Poetry Association's Poet's Choice Contest. She is a graduate of the City College of New York and the School for International

Training. Rosen taught English as a Second Language for many years at Chemeketa Community College, and codirected the Advanced Institute of the Oregon Writer's Project at Willamette University. She lives and writes in Salem.



Keith Scribner is the author of two novels. *The GoodLife* (1999) fictionalizes a crime that made headlines in 1992, when a middle-class couple from New Jersey kidnapped an oil company executive. *The New York Times* named *The GoodLife* a Notable Book of the Year, and Tobias Wolff called it "a difficult and daring novel that keeps surprising you."

The GoodLife spins a dark yet comic tale that examines what pursuing the American dream can do to individuals, families, and society. "I wrote a lot of *The GoodLife* while living

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Update on Peace Chapbook

The deadline (September 15) has come and gone for poetry submissions to the *Poems of Peace and Hope* chapbook. The Lane Arts Council's Community Arts Grant awarded the Guild \$1,100 to go ahead with the project. We had requested \$1,500, so we're casting about for a donor or two who can help make up the difference.

Our judge, **Judith C. Montgomery**, will select the poems by December 1. The work will then be typeset and sent to the designer; all work is on a volunteer basis. The book will be printed in time for the April Windfall reading and the Eugene Concert Choir's performance of *Dona Nobis Pacem*. Free copies will be distributed at both events.

in Turkey,” Scribner says. “As I look back over the novel now, some of the scenes that get closest to the American sensibility are the ones I wrote there. It must be because of the perspective I gained living in a place so foreign. With similar ends in mind, I’ve given an equal voice to each of the five main characters in *The GoodLife*, hoping each offers perspective on the others.”

Scribner followed his debut novel with *Miracle Girl* (2003). Sue Phong, the deaf daughter of a Vietnamese woman and an African-American soldier, turns a dingy Hudson River town into a media circus by performing miracles that fan the dispirited populace’s fading glimmers of hope. Tourists pour in, and John Quinn, a real-estate broker, finds his life in shambles just as he encounters the miracle girl himself.

Kirkus Reviews gave *Miracle Girl* a starred review, calling the book “a hard-hitting, at times sidesplitting tale of trust, temptation, and redemption.”

Keith Scribner earned his MFA from the University of Montana and was awarded Wallace Stegner and John L’Heureux fellowships by Stanford University, where he taught creative writing for three years. He has worked as a carpenter, mucked oil tankers in the Gulf of Mexico, driven a taxi in Boston, and taught in Japan, Turkey, and New Jersey. Now he teaches writing at Oregon State University and lives in Corvallis with his wife (poet Jennifer Richter) and their two children.

Windfall Readings are sponsored by the Guild, the Eugene Public Library, the Friends of the Library, the Library Foundation, and the Cultural Services Division of the Lane Arts Council. The authors’ works are available for purchase and signing, and refreshments are served at intermission.

Future Windfalls

Windfall takes a break in December, but be sure to mark your calendars for these dates in 2006:

- January 17:** Short-story writer Gina Ochsner and poet George Estreich
February 21: Poets Adrian Matejka and Stacie Brown
March 21: Poets John Witte and Mary Szybist

Craft Workshop with Robert Hill Long

UO creative writing professor Robert Hill Long will teach a poetry craft workshop on February 25, 2006, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This may be our last chance to benefit from Robert’s many years of teaching about writing, because he plans to leave the area next summer.

The workshop will focus loosely on poetic form and structure, with time to practice some of the ideas Robert will be talking about. This workshop will fill up fast, so get in touch with Toni at <tonivd@cmc.net> or 685-1087 to reserve a spot. Cost is \$50 for members; nonmembers must join the Guild to participate. If you need a scholarship, inquire about availability.

Annual Meeting and Potluck Report

— by *Bean Comrada*

You enjoyed (or maybe missed?) great food at this year’s annual potluck/open mike/annual meeting at Lamb Cottage in Skinner’s Butte Park. We also got acquainted with some fine original work, as read by its creators, plus an excerpt from William Blake.

While the readings covered a fairly startling range of topics and styles, it also happened that, for no known reason, a few readers chose works relating to food.

A few guests joined us and may well become members (whether on the basis of food, friendship, or literary interests remains unknown).

How to Join LLG or Renew Your

Membership: Membership in Lane Literary Guild is open to anyone. Annual membership fees are \$25 for individuals, \$35 for families, \$15 for low-income or students, and \$50 for “angels.”

To find out whether you need to renew, look at the mailing label on this newsletter. Is there a neon sticker beside it saying “Time to Renew”? That’s our subtle way of reminding you.

Mail checks and lottery tickets to LLG, P.O. Box 11035, Eugene, OR 97440.

Membership Update

Where would we be without our members? Nowhere! Thanks to everyone for staying the course and helping to fund the written and spoken word in Lane County.

NEW MEMBERS

Holiana Sapinsley
Jennifer Gusset
Virginia Landgreen

RENEWING MEMBERS

Jill Leininger
Eileen Peterson
Robin Saxton
Keli Osborn
Nan Phifer
Bonnita Stahlberg
Deborah Wells
Henry Alley

Kudos to Guild Members

Laura LeHew, Joan Dobbie, Jenny Root, Rush Wayne, Lois Rosen, and Toni Van Deusen all won prizes in the Fall Oregon State Poetry Association (OSPA) poetry contests.

Ingrid Wendt gave the keynote address at the Oregon Council of Teachers of English conference in Grants Pass. She has been inducted into the “Consultant Network” of the National Council of Teachers of English. Her new website is <<http://www.ncte.org/profdev/onsite/consultants/wendt>>.

Ingrid also has a poem in the Fall 2005 *Beloit Poetry Journal* and in the anthology *Writing the World: On Globalization* (MIT Press); her essay “An American in Venice” appeared in the anthology *The Unsavvy Traveler: Women’s Comic Tales of Catastrophe* (Seal Press).

And Ingrid’s new book of poems, *Surgeonfish*, (WordTech Editions) won the 2004 Editions Prize.

Eileen Peterson has a poem forthcoming in *Cat Fancy* magazine.

Patty Jacobs’ nonfiction story, “If It Wasn’t Fishing, What Was It?” won a third-place award in the 2005 Oregon Writers’ Colony contest.

Quinton Hallett, Cecelia Hagen, and Laura LeHew have been awarded writing residencies at Soapstone for 2006. Laura also has poems forthcoming in *Not Just Air* and *Tiger’s Eye*.

Michael Hanner had a piece selected for the Eugene Mayor’s Art Show. Titled “Paris, No. 8,” the work was a collage that combined Michael’s poems and photographs.

Ginny Starr’s nonfiction story “Bridging the Coffeepot” won first honorable mention in the 2005 Oregon Writers’ Colony contest.

At a literary celebration of the Day of the Dead, **Kit Sibert** read her poems and **Shannon Applegate** read from her new nonfiction book, *Living Among Headstones*. The event was held at Tsunami Bookstore, and the audience was encouraged to wear black.



LANE LITERARY GUILD INFORMATION

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|--------------------|---|--------------------|--|
| Events: | calendar@laneliteraryguild.org Deborah Narin-Wells | LLG Website: | laura@deer-run.com Laura LeHew |
| Membership: | membership@laneliteraryguild.org Tom Van Deusen, Treasurer | Newsletter Layout: | ling_c_chan@yahoo.com Ling Chan |
| Newsletter: | newsletter@laneliteraryguild.org Cecelia Hagen | ONGOING WORKSHOPS | |
| Windfall Readings: | windfall@laneliteraryguild.org Cecelia Hagen & Deborah Narin-Wells | Fiction | Steven Higgins 689-8306 |
| Craft Workshops: | tonivd@cmc.net Toni Van Deusen 685-1087 | Poetry 1 | Deborah Narin-Wells 683-2086 |
| | | Poetry 2 | Michael Hanner 895-2236 |
| | | Poetry 3 | Gary Adams 461-0598 |
| | | Poetry 4 | Robin Saxton 343-2884 |
| | | Writing Practice | Toni Van Deusen 685-1087 tonivd@cmc.net |

ABOUT *THE WRITER'S ACCESS*

The Writer's Access is published bimonthly by the Lane Literary Guild, a not-for-profit group dedicated to fostering appreciation of the written and spoken word and providing workshops and support for writers in Lane County. Send member news, calendar events, or announcements to newsletter@laneliteraryguild.org

The LLG website, www.laneliteraryguild.org, is updated regularly. Log on to find links to Windfall readers and information about the Guild.

Is it
time
to
renew?
↑

Lane Literary Guild
P.O. Box 11035
Eugene, OR 97440



Readings & Events in November-December

NOVEMBER

- 5 Judy Berg, author of *The Otter Spirit*. Booksigning and slide show. Tsunami, 5:00 p.m.
- 7 Daniel Quinn, *Tales of Adam*, a book of parables and fables. Knight Library Browsing Room, 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Seth Kanter reads from his novel, *Wolves*. Knight Library Browsing Room, 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Garrett Epps, sponsored by Creative Writing. Knight Library Browsing Room, 8:00 p.m.
- 12 Waldorf School 3rd-5th grade students present a reading of an original work, *The Fire King*. Tsunami, 2:00 p.m.
- 15 Fiction writer Keith Scribner and poet Lois Rosen read for the Guild's Windfall Reading Series. Eugene Public Library, 7:00 p.m.

Jim Lynch reads from his novel, *Highest Tide*. Knight Library Browsing Room, 7:00 p.m.

- 16 William Fox, poet, author and adventurer, reads from *Terra Antarctica*. Knight Law Center, 7:30 p.m.
- 17 William Fox reads from *Climbing Mt. Limbo: On the Edge of Land and Language*. Gerlinger Alumni Lounge, 7:30 p.m.
- 21 Poet Ingrid Wendt reads from her new book of poems, *Surgeonfish*. Knight Library Browsing Room, 7:00 p.m.
- 29 Bob Welch, *My Oregon*. Knight Library Browsing Room, 7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER

- 8 Bob Welch talks about "Writing the Personal Essay" for the Mid-Valley Willamette Writers. \$10 donation; free to MVWW members. Baker Building at 10th & High, 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Jan Eliot, *Not So Picture Perfect*. UO Bookstore, 2:00 p.m.